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had learned their lesson, Muslims acquired the fundamental principles of Roman law, the parent law of the world, while a natural process of further development was secured in the "opinions" of those speculative Muslim lawyers whose *Responsa* came presently to represent equity in its strict sense. It was not until the Abbasid period that the canon law of Islam was practically completed and made, like that of the Roman church in Catholic states, the law of the land. Then arose the inevitable struggle between adherents of usage and of tradition; and the consequent schools and parties all closely intermingled with subtleties of theological speculation, of which indeed they were necessarily a part. For clear and logical presentation in brief space this explanation of Muslim law has no equal in our language.

Into the obscure and difficult subject of Muslim theology, occupying nearly two-thirds of the book, there is no need to enter here. The volume is a much-needed and welcome addition to the scanty materials for an understanding of Islam by English readers.

FREDERICK WELLS WILLIAMS.

*Mediæval India under Mohammedan Rule* (712-1764). By STANLEY LANE-POOLE, M.A., Litt. D., M.R.I.A. [The Story of the Nations.] (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1903. Pp. xviii, 449.)

THOUGH some might question the propriety of calling the millennium which ends with the nineteenth century the middle ages of so long a history as that of India, there can be no doubt of its convenience as an easily defined period for treatment in an historical series. Professor Lane-Poole would probably be among the first to concede that the romantic adventure of Mohammed Kasim in Sind was no real beginning of Islam either as cult or government in India. Mohammedan rule was not effectively established there until three centuries later, and then only slowly and in part. As a prelude, however, suggestive alike of Arab daring and defects, this raid is properly enough a portion of the story of Mohammedan India. The first book of the three into which this volume is divided concludes with an account of the successive onslaughts from Afghanistan during the eleventh and twelfth centuries, and the ultimate conquest of the Ganges basin; the hundred pages of Book II. are devoted to the various dynasties ruling from Delhi as their capital during three centuries; while the remainder of the volume, more than half, describes the Mogul Empire. For the purposes of an historical sketch designed for general reading this grouping is highly satisfactory. It emphasizes adequately the successive stages in a long process of subjection and imperfect assimilation, leaving out of view a multitude of minor occurrences, but making clear the great personages whose achievements and characters fashioned the course of events.

Like most students of oriental history, the author — who is in the very first rank of these — frankly estimates the account of this period as "necessarily more a chronicle of kings and courts and conquests than of

organic or national growth." It is preëminently the view of Asiatics themselves, who have of course been the furnishers of most of our sources on their own history. But it may yet be found as true of Asia as of Europe that outside of or, rather, behind the wars and vanities, the traits and ceremonies of the leaders, a society is apt to be directed in the long run by habits and desires of its own. These may not attain definite institutional shape, yet they are factors of growth quite apart from the element of individual caprice. The appearance of Mamelukes and slave kings in Egypt as in Hindustan is an instance of the working of an institution, not of an accident. In societies which are ever demanding chiefs who control, the slave system in the east tends to produce great men. As the author observes in his study of Saladin, "a slave is often held to be better than a son. The great slave vassals of the Seljuks were as proud and honorable as any bastards of Mediæval aristocracy; and when they in turn assumed kingly powers they inherited and transmitted to their lineage the high traditions of their former lords." Other examples might be adduced.

It is, nevertheless, as a portrayer of the individual that Professor Lane-Poole succeeds best in this as in some of his other books. He is the master of an excellent English style, and has strong human sympathies and an eye for the picturesque combined with full knowledge of his subject. There need be no disparagement in adding that this knowledge was presumably complete enough for him to construct a book like this almost offhand. To one of his scholarship, whose monographs on Baber and Aurangzib in Hunter's "Indian Empire Series" have exhibited also a good perception of historical method, fresh and special studies for such a work would be even excessive. But the result — whatever the preparation — is one of the most graphic, trustworthy, and best sustained volumes in this long and generally creditable popular series. In such sketches as those of Balban, Ala-ad-din, or the terrible Taghlak, in the earlier portion of the book, the typical Asiatic war-lord and executioner is painted with rare appreciation and vigor, while each of the Great Moguls is given space sufficient for us to realize in what the glory of that extraordinary half-dozen consisted. The author is singularly lenient with some matters usually condemned, such as Mohammed Taghlak's wild experiment with his brass tokens; possibly his numismatic learning may account for this as for the numerous coins portrayed throughout these pages; but we should have expected him to deal more severely than he does with the drunken Jahangir and the religious vagaries of Akbar. The numerous illustrations, mainly from architectural photographs, add appreciably to the value of a most readable book.

FREDERICK WELLS WILLIAMS.